

MILL CREEK 2 AND 3 HYDROELECTRIC SYSTEMS,
MILL CREEK 2 AND 3 POWERHOUSE
POTABLE WATER TANK

HAER No. CA-2272-U

Mill Creek
Yucaipa vicinity
San Bernardino County
California

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
National Park Service
U.S. Department of Interior
1111 Jackson Street
Oakland, California 94607

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Location: The Mill Creek 2 and 3 Potable Water Tank (MC 2 and 3 Potable Water Tank) is located 300 feet up the hill at the southeast of the Mill Creek 2 and 3 Powerhouse (MC 2 and 3 Powerhouse). The MC 2 and 3 Powerhouse site is located southeast of California State Route 38 (SR 38), immediately west and downhill from the penstocks. The site is located within Mill Creek Canyon in San Bernardino County, California. (USGS topographic map Yucaipa, Section 13; T. 1S., R. 1W.).

Significance: The MC 2 and 3 Potable Water Tank provided potable water for the MC 2 and 3 Powerhouse. The Mill Creek 2 and 3 Hydroelectric Systems (MC 2 and MC 3) are some of the earliest examples of a high-head hydroelectric system within the United States and are early examples of the first commercial three-phase alternating current stations in California. Three-phase alternating later became the industry standard.

Description: The MC 2 and 3 Potable Water Tank is located in a one-story structure with a rectangular plan and a poured concrete foundation. The exterior walls are also made of poured concrete. The moderately pitched gabled roof is clad with corrugated metal sheets. The gable ends have horizontal wood board cladding. The area just below the roofline is open. There are no door or window openings for this structure.

History: The MC 2 and 3 Potable Water Tank was one of the early outbuildings constructed on the MC 2 and 3 Powerhouse site. It provided potable water for the MC 2 and 3 Powerhouse. The MC 2 system was constructed between 1889-1899, and the MC 3 system was constructed between 1899 and 1903. Both systems were originally built by the Redlands Electric Light and Power Company, which was later absorbed by the Edison Electric Company of Los Angeles in 1901. MC 2 has not been in operation since 1992, when it was damaged in a flood and MC 3 is still in operation today. Please see the Historic Context section in the general Historic American Engineering Record for the Mill Creek 2 and 3 Hydroelectric Systems (HAER No. CA-2272) for additional information.

Sources:

Fowler, Frederick Hall. *Hydroelectric Power Systems of California and Their Extensions into Oregon and Nevada, Water-Supply Paper 493*. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1923.

White, David R. M. "Cultural Resource Management Plan for the Southern California Edison Company Mill Creek Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 1934) San Bernardino County, California," June 1993.

Low, George P. "The Generating, Transmission and Distribution Systems of The Edison Electric Company of Los Angeles, Cal.," *The Journal of Electricity, Power and Gas*. vol. XIII, no. 1. January, 1903.

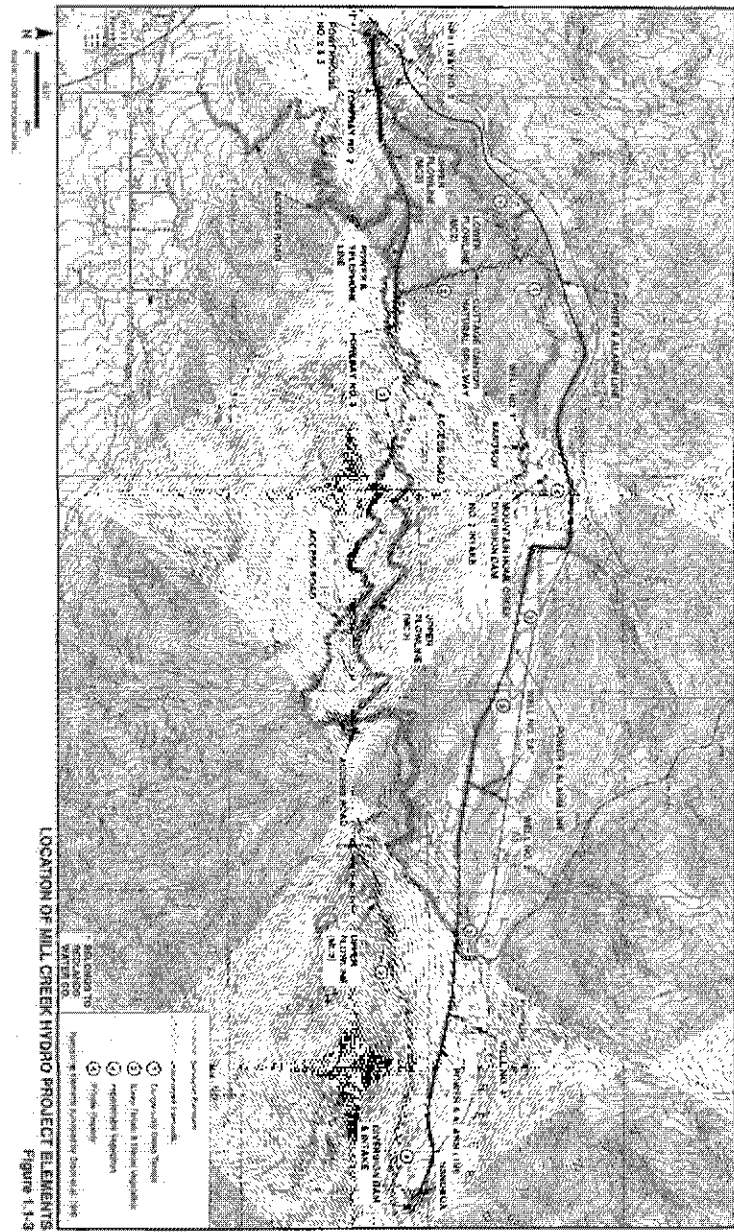
“Means Much to Redlands: Big Light and Power Deal Closed,” *Los Angeles Times*. May 25, 1901, 8.

“Redlands Electric Light & Power Co., Edition Electric Co. of Los Angeles, Mill Creek Powerhouses,” *National Register of Historic Places Inventory – Nomination Form*, April 30, 1985, item number 7, 10.

Historian: Christeen Taniguchi, Senior Architectural Historian, Galvin Preservation Associates, 1611 S. Pacific Coast Highway, #104, Redondo Beach, CA 90277, 2008-2009.

Project Information: MC 2 has not operated since 1992 when it was damaged during floods. It was not, however, decommissioned. The Southern California Edison Company, in conjunction with the San Bernardino National Forest, the agency that owns the property, proposes to formally decommission the facility. This process will include filling the sandbox and forebay with slurry, and removing the metal features. Although MC 3 is still in operation, it is also being recorded as part of this project because of the system’s close association with MC 2.

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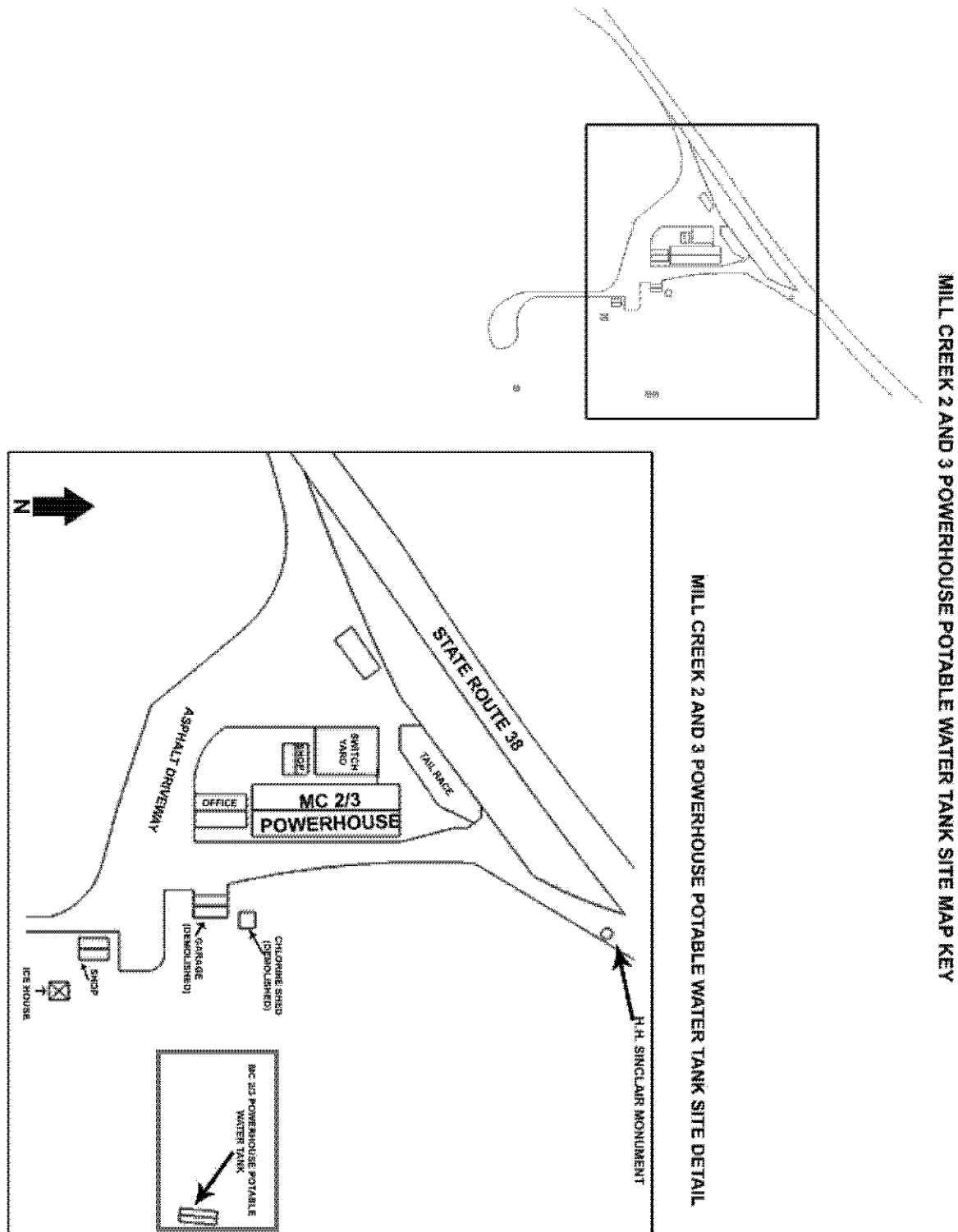


Location of Mill Creek Hydro Project Elements. (Map Courtesy of Southern California Edison)

MAP OF RESIDENTIAL SITE COMPLEX, SITE SB-5517H Figure 4.2-15

Site Map of the Mill Creek 2 and 3 Powerhouse Site (Map Courtesy of Southern California Edison)

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Mill Creek 2 and 3 Powerhouse Potable Water Tank Site Map. MC 2/3 Potable Water Tank is located within the red square.